

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 8, 12, 19, 20, 24, and 37-44 are currently pending, Claims 7, 8, 12, 19, 20, and 24 having been amended, and Claims 1-6, 10-11, 13-18, and 22-23 having been presently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The changes and additions to the claims do not add new matter and are supported by the originally filed specification.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al. (U.S. 2005/0206582) in view of Suyama et al. (U.S. 6,525,699); Claims 4-6, 10, 11, 16-18, 22, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al. in view of Sullivan (U.S. 6,377,229); Claims 7, 8, 12, 19, 20, and 24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but containing allowable subject matter; and Claims 37-44 were allowed.

Applicants thank the examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In view of this indication, allowable Claims 7, 8, and 12 have been amended to be placed in independent form while incorporating the features of independent Claim 1. Also, allowable Claims 19, 20, and 24 have been amended to be placed in independent form while incorporating the features of independent Claim 13. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 7, 8, 12, 19, 20, and 24 should be allowed.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is requested.

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